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HISTORICAL SKETCH.

THE organization of a Kansas association of scientific men at an early date was due to the efforts of the late Rev. Johns D. Parker and Prof. B. F. Mudge, who, in July, 1868, issued a call signed by seventeen men for a meeting of all persons in the state interested in natural sciences to meet in Topeka.

The first meeting was held in September of that year, in Lincoln College (now Washburn), and the Kansas Natural History Society was organized and officers elected. The object, as stated in the original draft of the constitution, "shall be to increase and diffuse a knowledge of the natural sciences, particularly in relation to the state of Kansas." At the fourth annual meeting, held in Leavenworth, in 1871, the name was changed to the Kansas Academy of Science. In 1873 the Academy became a coördinate department of the State Board of Agriculture by the terms of the following act of the legislature:

"The Academy of Science shall be a coördinate department of the State Board of Agriculture, with their office in the agricultural rooms, where they shall place and keep for public inspection the geological, botanical and other specimens, the same to be under the direction and control of the officers of the said Academy of Science. An annual report of the transactions of said Academy of Science shall be made on or before the 15th day of November of each year to the State Board of Agriculture, for publication in the annual transactions of said board."

The Academy has increased in membership from the original small body of scientists to nearly 200. It has held forty-two annual meetings, of which twenty have been held in Topeka, six in Lawrence, four in Manhattan, two in Leavenworth, three in Emporia, two in Ottawa, and one each in Atchison, Baldwin, Iola, McPherson and Wichita.

Twenty-four volumes of the Transactions have been published, varying in size from a few pages in the early numbers to 350 pages in the later volumes. These publications contain many papers of recognized scientific value. The exchange list includes over 500 names of societies and libraries.

The Academy is now installed in the north wing of the Capitol building, at Topeka, in rooms on the fourth floor. It

has two connecting rooms, used for the office and library, and the museum occupies the adjacent corridor.

The museum has been greatly increased by the gift of the state mineral display erected at the St. Louis Exposition, and given suitable cases to hold this large amount of material. It thus has the finest economic collection of the Kansas mineral industries in the state—an exhibit which received two gold medals, twenty-two silver medals, and fourteen bronze medals.

The Academy will have permanent quarters in the Memorial building whose erection is now begun, and with this advantage will enter upon a new career of expansiveness and usefulness.